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Nan-fang Jih-pao.

SURVEYS AGRICULTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS JANUARY - JUNE 1951, KWANGTUNG PROVINCE

A 4-day provincial agricultural conference was held in July to review the work of the first half of 1951 in Kwangtung. Representatives from farm areas and agricultural officials, in discussing ways and means of increasing production, stressed the need of cooperation between farmers and government as well as implementation of current political movements in future agricultural programs.

The reports show that under the flood-prevention program, 35,006 dams and 13,175,069 cubic meters of dikes were repaired, in addition to the dredging of 141,296 cubic meters of river mud. About a million head of draft oxen have been inoculated in conjunction with the pest and epidemic control program.

In spite of the flood and unfavorable weather early this year, production of rice and other foodstuffs is expected to be 2,100,000 and 1,850,000 market piculs /one market picul is about 110 pounds/, respectively, above the planned goals. Fruit, sugar cane, hemp, tobacco, and silk production is also expected to exceed that of last year by large percentages, mostly on the basis of increased area planted. In the afforestation program trees have been planted in over 4 million mou /one mou equals 1/6 acre/ during the first half of 1951.

The Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the Kwangtung People's Government sponsored an agricultural conference, 20 - 28, July to review the agricultural work accomplished in Kwangtung Province during the first half of 1951. Attending the conference were farm representatives from the important hsiens in Kwangtung, officials of the department, and agricultural specialists and professors. Vice-chairman Fang-fang and Li Chang-ta of the Kwangtung People's Government presided cover the sessions. The topics of discussion centered on the steps taken to combat spring disasters due to the weather and measures to be adopted for the coming summer harvest and subsequent planting. The problems of implementing agricultural production in conjunction with the three current political movements, namely, aid to Korea, suppression of counterrevolutionaries, and land reform, were discussed.

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It was pointed out that the long neglect of land before liberation and the unfavorable weather conditions of last winter and spring, which destroyed many crops, were responsible for the shortage of seed, fertilizer, food, and implements during the spring planting. Under the leadership of the people's government the farmers mobilized themselves and succeeded in fulfilling the spring cultivation program. Large quantities of agricultural supplies were given to the farmers by the government.

The farmers responded enthusiastically to Chairman Yeh Chien-ying's call for flood-prevention work last spring. They completed the building of 35,006 dams to irrigate 3,113,635 mou of farm land; the work completed was 207.5 percent above the expected goal. In addition, 13,175,069 cubic meters of dikes were repaired and 141,296 cubic meters of river mud were dredged. In general the accomplishments represented twice the work completed in 1949.

Epidemics among domestic animals and livestock were prevalent this year. Nine epidemic-prevention station units went to various special districts to do prevention work. In addition 956,628 draft oxen were inoculated; this represents 85 percent of the quota set for this year.

Crop pests have been prevalent throughout Ch'ao-shan, Chu-chiang, and central Kwangtung areas. Under the leadership of the cadres, many superstitious methods of insect control held by the farmers were replaced with modern methods and techniques.

Spring planting is expected to increase the food production above the planned goal by 2,100,000 market piculs of rice and 1,850,000 market piculs of other foodstuff. Aside from the two special ch'us of Ch'ao-shan and Chu-chiang, the paddy fields in the province appear to be very promising. The summer harvest will exceed the goal by a large margin if favorable weather continues during the next 10 days.

The prospect is also good for other agricultural products. The area devoted to the planting of sugar cane exceeded the original plan by 122 percent, which is 450 percent more than last year. The area planted in yellow hemp is 135.3 percent of the planned quota, a 92-percent increase over last year. The area planted in tobacco (to be toasted) is 150.4 percent of the quota, a 139-percent increase over that of last year. In addition, about 10,000 piculs one picul equals 133.3 pounds of toasted tobacco will be made available by processing native tobacco of Hao-shan and Ch'ing-yuan hsiens.

The planting of fruit trees exceeded the goal set for this year by 8,100 mou. The area devoted to the improvement of seeds exceeded the goal by 13,733 mou. Silk production is expected to show a 25-percent increase over the plan goal.

The large-scale afforestation program has reached 61 hsiens in the province. This year, trees have been planted in an area of 4,060,787 mou, 7.5 times more than last year, and 510 mou were devoted to tree seeding plots. Also, 2,353 forest-protection units were organized this year.

After reviewing the agricultural production experiences of the first half of this year, the conference concluded that the government must seek the guidance and opinion of the farmers in order to make any future program successful. Political aims must also be stressed.

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